

ACT REVISIONS

Because the Board is concerned that the Geologist and Geophysicist Act (Act) must be updated, it is proposing major revisions for the next legislative session. Among the changes being considered are amendments to section 7841 (Qualifications of Applicant for Registration as Geologist) that would eliminate the provision allowing an applicant without a degree in geological science or a related field to apply for licensure as a Registered Geologist.

The Board also will consider reducing the experience requirements for licensure as a Registered Geologist or Registered Geophysicist when it addresses the issue during its review of the revised Act, tentatively scheduled for the August 11-12, 2000, Board Meeting.

At the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC) Public Hearing on April 4, 2000, JLSRC staff concluded:

“Issue: The seven-year experience requirement, which includes a combination of education and supervised work experience, does not appear justified.

“Recommendation: The Board should consider reducing the experience requirement for geologists and geophysicists.

“Comments: The experience requirement for licensing a geologist is seven years, with two years of experience credited for a bachelor’s degree, and an additional two years experience credited for graduate work toward a Masters or Ph.D. During the prior review of the Board, the Joint Committee indicated that the experience requirement appeared somewhat excessive and arbitrary, and five years additional experience beyond a bachelor’s degree seems to require more than just the minimum competence necessary to practice in this profession. (Engineers are required to have only two years of supervised experience if they receive a bachelor’s degree in engineering and only one year of supervised experience if they have a Masters or Ph.D. in engineering.) Considering the amount of experience required, and what

amounts to appropriate “supervised” work experience, and then passage of a difficult examination by the applicant (with an average passage rate of 30%), it could take a graduate any where from five to ten years to gain entry into the profession. This far exceeds any other experience requirement of other boards. [The Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) concurs with this analysis.]”

The Board will review public comments at its June 16, 2000, meeting in Sacramento. Please submit written comments and questions addressing the reduction of the experience requirements for licensure as a Registered Geologist or Registered Geophysicist, to the Board’s office no later than Thursday, June 15, 2000. Public comments may be presented at the Board’s June 16 meeting in Sacramento.

NEW REGULATIONS

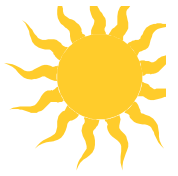
On June 16, 2000, the Board will hold public hearings to amend current regulations. The proposed amendments (1) clarify that an applicant for registration as a geologist is required to retake only the examination or examinations failed and establish appropriate examination fees and (2) more clearly define when an application is considered abandoned and allow the Board to recover the costs of the examination process when an applicant fails to appear for an examination without obtaining a postponement from the Board.

Any interested persons may present comments orally or in writing relevant to the actions proposed at hearings to be held at 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California, commencing at 9:00 AM. Written comments must be received by the Board at its office, not later than 5:00 PM on June 15, 2000, or must be received by the Board at the hearing. Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, the statements of reasons and all other information upon which these proposals are based, may be obtained prior to the hearing upon request from the Board, from the Board’s website or at the hearing.



SUMMER 2000

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS



FIRST ASBOG EXAM SUCCESSFUL!



The Board administered the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) examination for licensure as a Registered

Geologist for the first time on March 17, 2000. Examinations were administered in Brea and in Sacramento. California administered 162 ASBOG examinations, which equals 32.6% of the Fundamentals of Geology and 40.6% of the Practice of Geology examinations administered nationwide!

NEW STAFF

The Board welcomes Sundra Hopkins and Tara Torok to its staff.

Sundra came to the Board from Healthnet where she was a Utilization Authority Representative, accepting medical requests for the San Francisco Individual Practice Association medical group. Sundra serves as assistant to the Enforcement Manager. She accepts initial telephone inquiries to the enforcement unit and processes written complaints.



Tara came to the Board from the Department of Education where she assisted with a program for adult school funding. Tara serves as clerical support to the Executive Officer. She coordinates and attends all Board and Committee meetings, makes all travel arrangements for Board,



Committee and staff members and assists with other daily administrative activities of the Board.

STAFF PROFILE

Pam Hopper



Pam came to work for the Board from the Department of Insurance, License Bureau-Education Unit, in 1996. She was hired as an Office Technician to provide administrative assistance to the Executive Officer and

Board members. In December 1998, Pam was promoted to Management Services Technician and in March 1999, assumed the responsibilities of Examination Coordinator. As Examination Coordinator, Pam completes the first review of examination applications, secures examination sites and proctors, administers the Board's twice-yearly examination and works with the Office of Examination Resources to coordinate the Board's criterion-reference and subject matter expert workshops.

SUNSET REVIEW COMPLETE!

The Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC) voted unanimously on April 11, 2000, to continue the licensing and regulation of geologists and geophysicists. The JLSRC concluded that the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists is the appropriate entity to license and regulate the professions. The Board would like to thank the public and professionals who understand the need to continue licensing and regulation of geologists and geophysicists in California and supported the Board during the Sunset Review process.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

June 16
Sacramento

August 11-12
Sacramento

October 6
Sacramento

December 1
San Diego

ENFORCEMENT MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Mary Scruggs

Registered Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist



Life has interesting ways of checking to see if you are paying attention. A few weeks ago, I took a few days off to get away for a short vacation over spring break. The spectacular views of the Central California coastline lulled us into leaving all of our cares behind and to enjoy the sights on our way to see Hearst Castle. Suddenly, we were jolted back to reality with a crash my son describes as "like a bomb going off" when a

rock the size of a soccer ball rolled off the cliff and struck our vehicle. The rear side window was shattered. We all learned a lesson that you cannot escape geologic hazards, even on vacation. Our alertness on roads adjacent to steep roadcuts also was increased tremendously.

The Board's enforcement program also can serve as a wake up call. Some enforcement cases are very serious and impact the safety of citizens of California. However, there are many cases that are not as serious as endangering citizens but still need to be addressed. For whatever reason, and there appears to be as many reasons as there are cases, licensees can fall into a state of complacency or lack of attention to detail and wind up the subject of an enforcement case. In other situations, one may be complacent and choose not to bring a case to the Board's attention.

Although most cases do not result in formal disciplinary action such as license suspension or revocation, many cases do result in lesser sanctions including citations, fines and letters of warning. Licensees are held accountable for violations of the Professional Standards (section 3065 of the Rules and Regulations); but as a profession, you can all work toward improving the work and raising the standard of practice in the areas in which you work. If you cut corners on your projects to meet a deadline or get the job, do not meet the standard of practice, work in areas that are not within your area of expertise or choose to look the other way when you think there may be a violation, you may be in for a wake-up call as well. Learn from mistakes, strive to improve and share your knowledge with others. The profession, your business or place of work, your career and the people of California will benefit.

As we all know, geology affects all of us even though many people are not aware of it. And by the way, be careful out there. Fortunately, the point was driven home to me without serious consequences; but I have taken notice.

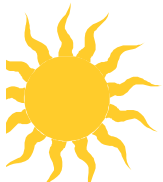
ENFORCEMENT WARNING!

DO NOT DISCUSS ENFORCEMENT CASES WITH BOARD MEMBERS. This includes contact before, during or after a Board or Committee meeting by either written, oral, electronic or any other means of communication.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

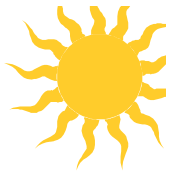
The Board investigates complaints against Registered Geologists, Registered Geophysicists, Certified Engineering Geologists, Certified Hydrogeologists and individuals practicing geology or geophysics without a license.

To file a complaint, complete the Board's complaint form and include copies of all documents pertaining to the complaint. The complaint form is available on the Board's website or upon request. If you have questions about filing a complaint, contact the Board's enforcement staff.



SUMMER 2000

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS



ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Ray Moritz

The Board issued a citation to Ray Moritz for violation of sections 7832, 7835 and 7872(a) of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. The citation was issued for practicing geology without a license when Mr. Moritz determined the cause of a slope failure adjacent to a residence in Marin County. Mr. Moritz prepared a report with geologic conclusions without the stamp or seal of a Registered Geologist. The citation contained an order of abatement requiring Mr. Moritz to cease practicing geology without a license. Mr. Moritz agreed to not practice geology and made changes to the limitation statements in his contracts for services. Compliance with the Board's order of abatement does not constitute an admission of any violations of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. This represents a satisfactory resolution of the matter. The case was closed on November 30, 1999.

Citation

The Board issued a citation and \$2,500 fine to an individual for violation of sections 7832 and 7872(a) of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. The citation was issued for unlicensed practice of geology for the individual's work in evaluating contamination in the soil and ground water at a dry cleaners site in San Diego County. The citation contained an order of abatement requiring the individual to cease practicing geology without a license. The individual agreed to not practice geology and paid the fine. In accordance with section 125.9(d) of the Business and Professions Code, payment of the fine does not constitute admission of the violation charges but represents a satisfactory resolution of the matter. The case was closed on May 19, 2000.



USE OF SEALS

The Board established a policy position on the use of the Registered Geologist, Registered Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist seals. The public misinterprets the use of the Board's seals when they are used on work that is not the practice of geology or geophysics. The Board is acting to avoid the confusion to consumers that this use of the seal causes.

The Board's seals should only be used on reports, documents, attachments, maps or any other forms of written communication required to be prepared by a licensed Registered Geologist or Registered Geophysicist.

As advised in the August 12, 1999, memorandum from the Board's legal counsel and by the Board at its February 4, 2000, meeting, the completion of a Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement is not the practice of geology. Therefore, it is not appropriate to seal Natural Hazard Disclosure Statements and other non-geologic reports and forms such as escrow reports and resumes with its seals.

The Board recognizes that if consumer confusion continues, it may be necessary to more closely regulate the use of its seals.

Where Are You?



The answer will appear in Information Bulletin 00-03.

Photo by John A. Karachewski
www.geoscapesphotography.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LINDBLOM



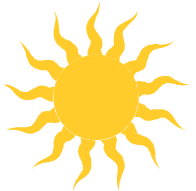
The Board thanks Bob Lindblom for his eight years of service to the Board, the profession and the citizens of California. Mr. Lindblom's term as Board member ended on June 1, 2000. Mr. Lindblom was appointed to the Board in 1992 by former Governor Pete Wilson as the Board's petroleum geologist member. Mr. Lindblom served as Board president from 1994 to 1996, during the Board's first review by the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee. A presentation recognizing Mr. Lindblom's dedicated service to the Board will be made at the June 16, 2000, Board meeting.

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